

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: SACLANT CHANGE OF COMMAND

REF: A. STATE 180489 (DTG 172336Z JUL 78)
B. USNATO 07005 (DTG 181622Z JUL 78)

1. FOR USNATO: AMBASSADOR SHOULD DELIVER TO SYG LUNS
THE TEXT OF THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
NOMINATING ADMIRAL TRAIN AS SACLANT. SIGNED ORIGINAL
BEING POUCHED.

BEGIN TEXT:

JULY 25, 1978

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL:

-HE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH
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ATLADTIC COUNCIL HAS ASKED THAT I RECOMMEND AN OFFICER
OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE
COMMITTEE AS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, ATLANTIC, TO
SUCCEED ADMIRAL ISAAC C. KIDD, JR. I NOMINATE VICE
ADMIRAL HARRY D. TRAIN, II, FOR THAT APPOINTMENT.

VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN IS WELL QUALIFIED TO PERFORM

THE DUTIES OF SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, ATLANTIC. HE
IS AN OFFICER OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER AND ABILITY.
DURING A DISTINGUISHED NAVAL CAREER HE HAS COMMANDED
SOME OF OUR FOREMOST NAVAL FORCES, AND CURRENTLY SERVES
AS COMMANDER, SIXTH FLEET. HE IS THOROUGHLY COGNIZANT
OF THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POST OF
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, ATLANTIC.

I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN WILL
MAKE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS STRENGTHENING
OUR COMMON DEFENSE EFFORTS.

IF THE COMMITTEE CONCURS, I WILL ARRANGE FOR VICE
ADMIRAL TRAIN TO RELIEVE ADMIRAL KIDD AS SUPREME ALLIED
COMMANDER, ATLANTIC, IN SEPTEMBER 1978. I WILL ALSO
APPOINT HIM TO THE GRADE OF ADMIRAL WHILE SERVING
IN THIS POSITION.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

2. USDELMC HAS BEEN PROVIDED COPY OF TEXT FOR
SIMULTANEOUS NOTIFICATION TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

3. THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS A PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT FOR
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RELEASE IN BRUSSELS UPON APPROVAL BY THE DPC OF ADMIRAL
TRAIN. MISSION SHOULD NOTIFY WASHINGTON IN ADVANCE
OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DPC MEETING AND PRESS
RELEASE SO THAT THE WHITE HOUSE CAN ARRANGE FOR
SIMULTANEOUS PRESS RELEASE HERE AND NOTIFICATION OF
CONGRESS.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH
ATLANTIC COUNCIL TODAY APPOINTED VICE ADMIRAL HARRY D.
TRAIN, II, UNITED STATES NAVY, AS SUPREME ALLIED
COMMANDER, ATLANTIC.

THE APPOINTMENT IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 1.

VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN WILL SUCCEED ADMIRAL ISAAC C.
KIDD, JR., WHO HAS SERVED AS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER,
ATLANTIC, SINCE MAY 30, 1975. MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE
PLANNING COMMITTEE EXPRESSED THE GRATITUDE OF THEIR
GOVERNMENTS TO ADMIRAL KIDD FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE IN THE POST.

THE COMMITTEE HAD ASKED THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NOMINATE AN OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO SUCCEED ADMIRAL KIDD, WHO IS RETIRING FROM ACTIVE SERVICE. IN RESPONSE, THE PRESIDENT NOMINATED VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN.

AT ITS MEETING TODAY, THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN AS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, ATLANTIC, SUCCEEDING ADMIRAL KIDD, WITH THE SAME POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. THE APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1978.

VICE ADMIRAL TRAIN, WHO WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE
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GRADE OF ADMIRAL WHEN HE ASSUMES HIS NEW POST, IS
NOW SERVING AS COMMANDER, SIXTH FLEET.

END TEXT.

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